**Excerpts from John Fee's An Anti-Slavery Manual (1851)**

**Web Version:**

<http://hti.osu.edu/content/lessonplans/Age%20of%20Reform.cfm>

**Final Appeal:**

And now, respected reader, in conclusion, let me say, if you and I have been either practical slaveholders, or simply non-slaveholders, but sustainers of the [unconstitutional](http://medicolegal.tripod.com/slaveryillegal.htm) laws that help the slaveholder to do his work of oppression to man, and moral and political death to the nation, though it may cost us time, money, persecution and public commotion, let us do so no more. Let us "remember those in bonds as bound with them ([Hebrews 13:3](http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible?Hebrews+13:3))," by breaking every yoke ([Isaiah 58:6](http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible?Isaiah+58:6)), and labor to induce our neighbors to do the same.

If, by faith in God and persevering effort, you succeed in removing this great evil, you will wipe out the darkest spot on your nation's escutcheon, and achieve the most glorious triumph written upon the scroll of time. The living will praise you; posterity will hail you as the benefactor of mankind; and best of all, Christ Jesus will hail you, at the judgment morn, with the plaudit,

"Well done, thou good aod faithful servant;" " inasmuch as ye have done it unto one

of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me ([Matthew 25:40](http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible?Matthew+25:40)):" "enter

thou into the joys of thy Lord ([Matthew 25:21](http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible?Matthew+25:21), [23](http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible?Matthew+25:23))."

Amen, and Amen.

But, on the other hand, if you refuse to co-operate with your fellow-men in removing this growing curse, then calamity, untold and inevitable, awaits you, and your posterity. Never has it been known that any people remained perpetually in bondage. Either they have risen in their own strength, by the aid of allies, or by the arm of God, and avenged their wrongs.

The slaves in our midst are fast increasing on us. We are growing fewer in number and weaker in body. The North, the East, the West, are fast becoming alienated from us, because of our oppression—of our wrongs and usurpations. Other nations are looking upon us with feelings of righteous indignation. Three millions of slaves in our midst are ready to rise at the tap of a drum.

The day is fast approaching when forbearance will cease to be a virtue; and, oh! my brethren, what can we do in the day of [calamity](http://medicolegal.tripod.com/coumarin.htm#c-w-casualties), when our iniquities are being visited on our own heads, and the vials of God's wrath are poured out upon us? We can, if we will, avert the impending ruin.

If we do duty to the slave, he will become our friend; the world will become our friend; God will become our friend. We shall be stable and prosperous by virtuous action; stand as a beacon to the world; and continue a fountain of good until liberty, enrobed in light, shall wave her lovely flag triumphant over every land, and the olive of peace deck the brow of every nation.

Action is glory won; but refusing to act is treason to your country, rebellion to God, and treachery to man.